

NAME OF NOMINEE: Scott Marquess Redacted non responsive

TITLE AND GRADE OF CURRENT POSITION: Environmental Scientist
GS-1301-13

ORGANIZATION AND LOCATION: Water Enforcement Branch
Water, Wetlands and Pesticides Division

JUSTIFICATION: The purpose of this award is to recognize the contributions of Scott Marquess for his dedication in addressing situations where the public is drinking water with contaminants above the maximum contamination level or where conditions are such that the potential is high for that to situation to occur. One notable case is that of a long time noncompliant system in Pretty Prairie, Kansas, where residents have been drinking water with nitrate levels above the MCL for year and most recently the contaminant level is now twice that of the MCL. The system resisted efforts by the state to address the problem because of the cost.

Scott, coordinating with the state, opened the lines of communication with the City. They had not had any contact with EPA for a number of years since a previous enforcement action. He arranged for a meeting with EPA, the state, and the City in Pretty Prairie, making sure that a state person knowledgeable in funding for small water systems would be present to assist the City with their questions regarding financing. Scott set about learning all he could regarding the cause of the contamination, options for treatment and the cost, history of the system, and other pertinent facts regarding the system. His extensive knowledge of pertinent facts and obvious preparation, along with his personable style, clearly demonstrated his concern and commitment to helping them find a solution to their problem, thereby gaining credibility and trust. The meeting went very well and shortly thereafter the City submitted their application to obtain grant monies and update their feasibility study to determine the most appropriate treatment to install.

